



Eastwood Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2010

Your Eastwood Team

Jeff Ehrhart
President

Carl VonWald
Vice President

Jeff Gorman
PGA Professional

Ryan Bakken
Assistant Professional

Jake DeWitz
Assistant Professional

Event Coordinators

Jeff Ehrhart
Paul Pharis

June Event – Seattle Slew Memorial

Our second event, scheduled for Sunday June 6th is a Horse Race Tournament dedicated to Seattle Slew, arguably the greatest racehorse of all time. With an **8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start**, this event features four man teams where the three best net scores of the team on each hole count. Each player in the group plays his own ball. After the hole is completed, write your gross or actual score in the proper column. Subtract the handicap strokes (*designated by dots*) you are given to get your net score. The Horse Race point values are as follows –

Net Bogey 1 Point
Net Par 2 Points
Net Birdie 3 Points

Net Eagle 4 Points
Net Double Eagle 5 Points

Add together the best 3 of 4 points and write the point total at the bottom of the card.

***** **Horse Race Betting Available Before the Start of Play** *****

The June event is a **FOOD Event**. A meal will be served after play provided by the staff of the Eastwood Grill. This meal is part of your Eastwood Men's Club membership dues. You will also receive one drink ticket from your Team Captain. Your drink ticket can be redeemed at the Eastwood Grill bar **only** – drink tickets will **not** be accepted at the on course drink cart. Event sign-up should be completed by Thursday, June 3rd to allow the golf staff time to make appropriate pairings.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 May Event Results

3 Letter from the President
Rules of the road

4 Letter from the Club Professional

5 Letter from the Assistant Professional

6 Ruffensore

7 Hozelshank

Eastwood Driving Range

Open daily from Dawn to Dusk

"Don't play too much golf. Two rounds a day are plenty."
- Harry Vardon

Eastwood Men's Club

Sunday Event: Best 2 of 4 Net

May 2nd, 2010

T-1 st	Greg King Tom Grigoleit Dick Rundle John Beck	122	\$22.50/each
T-1 st	Kevin Coughlin Mark Warne Matt Hogan Clint Johnson	122	\$22.50/each
T-3 rd	Ken Gerzsenyi Dick Valde Joe Jenkins Paul Johnson	123	\$16.50/each
T-3 rd	Mark Dripps Brian Nelson Dave Johnson Steve Flynn	123	\$16.50/each
T-5 th	Greg Snider Kevin Thovson Mark Dozier Lary Klein	124	\$10.50/each
T-5 th	Steve Swanson Giles Paulson Randy Johnson Louis Orr	124	\$10.50/each
7 th	Chuck Mahlman Dan Zais Paul Pharis Mike Hundere	126	\$6.00/each

Field Events (\$10 each)

Closest 2nd Shot

Hole #3	Tracy Bashore
Hole #6	Dave Johnson
Hole #10	Greg Snider
Hole #18	Fred Woolman

From the Club President

From the President:

We are off to a great start this year. Membership in the Men's Club is up over last year. The May event had a very large turnout. The course is in great shape, and the weather has been outstanding. I wish I could take credit for all this (OK, the weather is all me), but it is you all and the hardworking staff at Eastwood that are making all the successes possible. The Thursday events have just started; and I am looking forward to increased participation... just so I can donate my \$3 to new people who have not had a chance to steal money from my wallet yet. The June event is one of my favorites (and not because of the food); so I am expecting another large turnout. See you there.

Jeff Ehrhart

Golf cart “rules of the road”

Usage of golf carts at Eastwood has been increasing over the years. With the new back nine established, the use of carts has become the rule, not the exception. Increased usage has caused increased wear to the course. It does not matter where on the course you are, the unpaved indication of cart routes is everywhere. This wear is more obvious on the front nine than the back. Starting with the area around #1 green, the well worn path begins. It's like a “well trodden” hard pan if your ball comes to rest in this area. From there the story goes on to those holes that have no paved cart path. This type and degree of wear has never been so significant at Eastwood. Most all of this deterioration can be attributed to cart drivers taking the short cut and trying to get “ever” closer to the greens and tees. It's like a game where they're trying to see just how close they can get. As we travel on to the back nine, we see carts being driven onto and into areas that are understood to be “off limits”, and in many cases, way beyond common sense. #12 is understood to be a “cart path only” hole, yet frequently you see people driving way off the path to save a few steps. Last year a number of members pushed/pulled a cart out of this area that had become stuck and abandoned.

What is the solution? I believe it is threefold:

- #1) Extend the cart path system. Where there are paved paths the wear is reduced.
- #2) Rope off cart access to the greens. It has proved to reduce the traffic in those areas.
- #3) Establish a new standard for golf cart usage; “common sense” is not, optional.

If we don't do something to change this usage, there will be barren paths running all over the golf course. Let's get started and change the face of Eastwood for the future.

Rick Lien rick@cyclecityrochester.com

Letter from the Club Professional

Dear Men's Club Members

What a wonderful spring for golf. With the addition of Northern Hills to my supervision, I'm sorry that I have not been available at Eastwood as much as in the past. Both facilities have been run professionally with Ryan Bakken and Mike Manahan's assistance. I thank them dearly in my absence.

In terms of club business, 64-man matches are being played and the Four-Ball brackets will be posted soon. The mini events are underway and we had a fantastic turnout for the first event. Our first Couples golf event was very successful and I thank many of the members who brought their wives out to play on a nice Saturday evening. But perhaps most importantly our club membership is back to the golden years of Eastwood with currently over 160 members!

I would also like to thank you for being patient throughout the spring golf season. We had a lot of high school play during April and May due to high team numbers which is a great sign for the game of golf. The game is a very positive experience for these kids and I appreciate your patience in getting them on the course.

June brings in our second major golf championship of the P.G.A. season, the U. S. Open. The tournament will be contested June 17-20 on the famed Pebble Beach Golf Links. Can Phil take the #1 spot in the World Rankings over Tiger? Personally I would like to see it. What a great way to spend Father's Day!

If you are looking for any type of merchandise I most likely have it in my golf shop or I can get it for you. In the month of June all golf bags will be 30% off the retail price as I ordered somewhat aggressively (again). Have a great June and I hope to see you at Eastwood.

Your P.G.A. Professional

Jeff Gorman

JUNE SALE:

**30% off all
bags**

June Couples Event
Saturday, June 19th
Look for a sign-up soon

Letter from the Assistant Professional

From the desk of Ryan Bakken

Greeting Men's Club Members! It has been a wonderful spring for golf. I hope that you have found some time in your busy lives to get out to play or practice. We have been very busy and I appreciate your patience with our staff in getting you on the golf course. Just a reminder, after Memorial Day we begin taking tee times at 7:00AM.

We have had a very strong signup for the Four-Ball tournament. I am still working on pairing individuals but I hope to have the bracket posted by Saturday, May 29. It will then be your duty to contact your opponents and get a match scheduled for sometime in the month of June. All Four-Ball divisions are played using handicaps except for the Championship Division. Good luck to those who are playing!

I recently had the opportunity to play in a U.S. Open Qualifier on May 17 at Hazeltine National GC in Chaska. It was quite the experience to say the least. The USGA sets up their qualifiers in the same manner that they set up the U.S. Open. The greens were lightning quick and very firm. The rough was very thick and penal. The pin placements were very difficult. The course played to approximately 7250 yards. Let's just say I have a much greater respect for the P.G.A. Tour players that consistently play under these conditions. I hit a lot of good shots that ended with bad results. It was a very fair and difficult test of golf. Hazeltine National is a fabulous golf course and I thoroughly enjoyed playing it. Maybe next time I'll play it under different conditions. So in summary, if you enjoy long rough, fast greens, tucked pins, bunkers, and overall self-inflicted punishment...don't hesitate to sign up for a U. S. Open qualifier.

I will not be seeing those of you that participate in the June Seattle Slew event as I will once again be traveling to western New York for the NJCAA Golf Championships. For those of you who may not know, I am also the Assistant Golf Coach for the RCTC Men's Golf Team. We qualified for the National Tournament last October and will be playing for a National Title June 8-11 at Chataqua Golf Club in Chataqua, New York. We finished second in the country last year and are hoping for a good finish this year, although our team is not nearly as strong. Good luck in the June event and I wish I could be here for it.

The golf course is in fantastic shape. We have had a great mixture of heat and precipitation. I know that there have been a lot of questions about the conditions of the bunkers. The grounds crew has spent a lot of time edging and working the bunkers into good shape. Unfortunately, on Tuesday the 25th we received over 2 inches of rain in under an hour. This led to some terrible damage to the bunkers. However, the grounds crew is working very hard to get them back into playing shape. Please be patient as Mother Nature dealt us a difficult blow. Good luck in the June Event!

Assistant Golf Professional

Ryan Bakken

Beware the Ides of the Equitable Handicap System

or "*Watch Out for the Scarlet Letter*"

by Red Ruffensore

We've met them; we know some of them well. Men's Club members who carry a special designation with their USGA Handicap Index. Look for it the next time you are in a match. Handicaps are posted in the Eastwood Club House for all to observe and heed. Look for the letter "R" after their handicap. It is meaningful on many levels...

According to the Minnesota Golf Association, the letter of shame means this:

The "R" signifies that a "reduction" has been placed on your Handicap Index. The USGA has a section in its Handicap System that automatically reduces the Handicap Indexes of players who consistently score better in competitions than in informal play. To be used, the procedure requires that a player have two or more eligible tournament scores and a minimum of two tournament score differentials which are at least three strokes better than the player's current USGA Handicap Index.

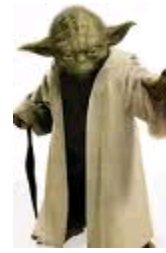
Caution, though, fellow members, lest you are quick to judge the "R" as a sign of sandbagging. Ruffensore would be the first to tell you that it means many things, and a member carrying the dreaded designation is more deserving of your pity than your wrath. Aside from the obvious leap in logic to assume malfeasance on the part of a member, consider the following.

- 1 Age and a winter off wreak havoc on golf skills. While you may have been shooting 'lights out' in August and September, your game has gone to blazes over the winter through lack of practice or, perhaps, though excessive practice of bad habits.
- 2 Bad things can come along during the year following those outstanding scores. Physical and emotional trauma can take a golfer off of his game for an extended period of time.
- 3 Maybe something good has come along and golf is less of a priority in a golfer's life. Maybe a new girl friend, wife, child or grandchild has taken the seriousness and competitive edge out of the golf game. You simply don't care as much about your score anymore.

Take pity on these poor souls. They suffer greatly. They are scorned as a partner because they cannot play to the level the USGA has assigned. They are ridiculed by the membership because of the stigma associated with the "R". They are rejected by the Men's Club Board of Directors and the Handicap Chair in spite of their legitimate reasons for the disparity between tournament scores and informal postings.

For those who carry the Scarlet Letter, Ruffensore takes pity on you. No one understands better. So, for those who carry the distinction of the "R" and need a sympathetic ear, stop by the Eastwood Grill any day and Ruffensore will buy the first cold glass of Ruffensore Red Ale.

Red Ruffensore



RW Hozelshank here:

Did you know the Eastwood Men's Club is about 40 years "young"? Hard to believe it, but it's true. The course opened in the late 1960's and the Men's Club was organized in 1970. The club has been chugging along all these years. As of today it numbers over 160 members and growing. It has been a strong force in golf since the beginning and represents a great group to play golf with. In recent years, clubs like ours have labored to maintain membership but have declined. Eastwood's numbers did decreased during the period of "new nine construction", but came roaring back after it opened. Now, membership appears as strong as it's ever been.

In the coming months, I plan on revisiting "old Eastwood" stories as told by some of the "older" members. One of the members did recall some of the early rounds at Eastwood when the trees were sparse, the grass new, and the ground hard due to lack of water. Those were the days when the wind really did blow across the barren plains. The trees were many and short, often measured as "knee high", the grass was sparse and occasional, and water as near as the closest well. In those days it didn't matter where you hit your ball, since there were no trees tall enough to be a problem, and old # 3 and new #2 played very differently. ". If you have memories of events to relive, please share them with Jeff Gorman and he will pass them on. I know there are lots of the stories out there and many of them are fit to tell.

RW HOZELSHAANK here.....

A Little Putting Insight from Dave Stockton

(hottest putting guru on tour)

Putter

1. Get a putter with 4 degrees of loft. He made it very clear that to roll the ball well on the greens, get a putter with about 4 degrees of loft. All of the best players he has worked with, including Tiger, use around 4 degrees of loft. Have a golf shop check it out if you are not sure.

Ritual

1. Always take practice swings from behind the ball, facing the hole (not while on the side of the ball before you hit it). You don't taking practice swings with a pool cue on the side of a cue ball, why do it with a putter? It doesn't make sense in his opinion.

2. Read putts on the low side of the break, and splitting the putt into three equal parts. Focus most on the third part since the ball will not be traveling as fast.

P.S. He doesn't line his ball up to the break line using the Titleist logo or a line on the ball.

Routine

1. After you have gotten the speed and break down and you are ready to hit the ball, set up to the side of the ball and place the putter head in front of the ball. The reason for this is somewhat like the reason for the waggle: You will probably still be moving your feet and getting settled a bit, so the last thing you want to do is keep the putter head stock still while you are still getting set. He advocates a slightly open stance

2. When he is ready, he then picks the putter up, places it behind the ball, makes a smooth forward press and hits the ball.

Other Mechanics – the left hand

1. The wrist should be more flat than cupped at address (in other words, pressed a bit forward). Instead of hitting the ball and then letting your hands come way up, keep the club (and hands) low through impact. A drill he advocates is to have a friend hold the butt end of a club just in front of his left hand at address. Then, as you practice putting, try to bump that club at the same point every time. The idea is to ensure the hands stayed low past impact.

(This is just a new feature to the newsletter, if you find this interesting or useful, I will try to add something like this every month.) SJH

MPGA

MINNESOTA PUBLIC GOLF ASSOCIATION

2010 MPGA Championship Schedule

- Four Ball • June 19 & 20 • Monticello
- Senior Publinks • July 17 & 18 • Highland National
- Junior Publinks • July 20 • Highland National
- Publinks • August 21 & 22 • The Jewel
- Combination • September 18 & 19 • Bunker Hills

Applications available at www.mpga.net

Eastwood Men's Club has been a member of the MPGA for many years.

The \$75 yearly membership fee, allows anyone who belongs to the Men's Club to participate in the tournaments that one would qualify for. For example, you must be 50 years old to play in the Seniors tournament. Tournaments include greens fees for two days and the chance to win merchandise. See how you fair against others in the state. Participate this year!